

Council Deadlocks 2-2 on Demotion of City Fireman

SCHOOL, CITY GRANT SALARY INCREASES

ESTABLISHED 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

PRINTED AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVENUE IN TORRANCE

Published Monday and Thursday—Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

40th Year—No. 73

12

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPT. 9, 1954

PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000

32 PAGES

Seven Injured in Head-On Collision

4 In Waltheria Family Injured

Seven persons, including the Waltheria postmaster, were injured Monday night, as two cars collided head-on on Crenshaw Blvd. south of 227th St.

A family of four, a man and wife, and another man were injured in the crash.

A car driven by James Shidler, 35, of 23083 Doris Way, collided with one driven by Worthie Paul Meacham, 35, of Redondo Beach about 6:35 p.m. Monday. Shidler was south-bound on Crenshaw, while Meacham was going north.

Ironically, Shidler had decided against going to Santa Barbara for the week-end because of heavy Labor Day traffic. He received a broken hip, but was reported doing satisfactorily at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Driver Badly Hurt

The other driver, Meacham, was reported "quite serious" at Los Angeles General Hospital, where he was taken after the accident. He received a broken leg and head injuries.

His wife, Mrs. Margaret Meacham, 28, was in "fair" condition at Harbor General Hospital, suffering head injuries, cuts and bruises. Of the four other passengers, Mrs. Jean Sleeth, 28, 2425 Las Codonas, received a broken leg and pelvis, but was reported in satisfactory condition. Her husband, Robert, 34, Waltheria postmaster, received numerous bruises and lacerations, and was taken to Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Children Cut, Bruised

The couple's two children, Mark, 6, and Jeffrey, 4, received

cuts and bruises, but were reported in good condition.

Shidler and the Sleeths, clad in beach wear, had just come from swimming, and were on their way to a barbecue. Mrs. Shidler, who had previously been with the group, had gone to get some meat, and missed the accident.

The impact of the crash spun the Shidler car half way around in the center of the road. Meacham's car was thrown to the east side of the road.

Friend Trial Set Sept. 10

Arraignment of Howard Dean Friend, 30, of Lawndale, on charges that he shot his wife, Patricia, last Aug. 2 with intent to kill will be in Department C, Long Beach Superior Court on Sept. 23.

The case was heard over to the Superior Court by South Bay Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett after preliminary hearing. Friend is charged with shooting his wife in the head after a family argument.

He was returned from Wichita, Kans., where he fled after the shooting, with the couple's two children.

Council Delays Demotion Reply

The Council deadlocked 2-2 with one member absent when it considered the case of the demoted fireman this week.

After hearing the Civil Service Board report of its findings and recommendations in the summary demotion of Fire Engineer Milton T. Langum by Fire Chief J. J. Benner last June, the Council deadlocked twice in trying to decide the issue. It was left for next week's meeting.

In its report of findings and recommendations, the Civil Service Board recommended that the period of demotion be limited to 90 calendar days and that Langum be restored to his rating as Fire Engineer on Sept. 8, 1954.

Support Lags

A move by Councilman Victor E. Benstead to have the demotion thrown out entirely and Langum restored to his former rating without loss of pay was supported only by Mayor Nicholas O. Drahe.

"I think it's only fair to reinstate the man without loss of any pay," Benstead said. Mayor Drahe seconded the motion, saying:

"I think the man should be commended for telling superior officers of the situation."

Councilmen Isen and Schwab opposed the move.

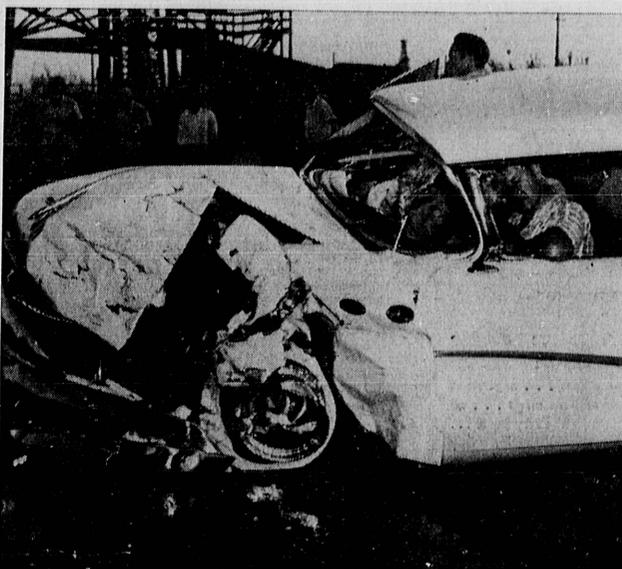
A counter-motion offered by Isen to concur with the Civil Service Commission findings and recommending also was deadlocked 2-2.

In supporting Isen's motion to accept the Civil Service Commission's recommendation, Schwab pointed out that the firemen were dealing with "high priced equipment" and that it should be cared for.

"I don't believe in cracking the whip on anybody," Benstead countered.

Demoted in June

Langum was demoted to fireman from a position of fire engineer last June after allegedly



AWAITS AID . . . James Shidler, brother of South Bay Judge John A. Shidler, awaits the ambulance after his auto and one driven by Paul Meacham collided on Crenshaw Blvd. near 227th St. In the car with Shidler were four members of the Robert Sleeth family of Waltheria. All received injuries.

School Enrollment Growth Noted in Annual Reports

Rapid growth in enrollment, with consequent problems of providing increased teaching and classroom facilities, are emphasized in the annual report of the Torrance Unified School District, shortly to be released to the public.

The comprehensive report, containing a statement to parents and the public at large and liberally illustrated with charts and figures, was compiled by Superintendent J. H. Hull. A model of simplicity, the four-page brochure in offset answers almost every conceivable question an interested person might ask.

Stressing the theme—"Good citizens are the joint task of school and home" and that "the elementary school is a foundation stone of our democracy," the brochure also contains 22 photographs of school activities.

Illustrated charts portray the source of school funds from local, State support, Federal funds, and County taxes. Expenditures, revealing that 62.24 per cent go to teaching salaries, are given a key position as well as a map showing location of existing and planned building sites.

Enrollment in Torrance schools has increased from 3166 in 1949 to 11,900. The teaching staff likewise has been expanded from 109 in 1949 to 430. Classrooms have increased during the same period from 65 to 274. Assessed valuation has jumped from \$33,593,270 to \$83,167,880 and budget growth has expanded from \$425,242 to \$3,667,921.

While costs per pupil have been reduced from \$352 in 1949 to \$209, a warning note is sounded in figures that show taxable wealth per pupil reduced from \$12,689 to \$6,957. This figure reflects the extensive tract homes development in the past four years and emphasizes the need for further industrial and commercial development within the city.

In a message from the Board of Education, headed by Mrs. Grace White, president, objectives of the Torrance Unified School District are expressed.

School Objectives
"The schools of Torrance, along with teaching the fundamentals, attempt to do two other jobs: (1) Helping parents develop good citizens, and (2) Helping each student achieve realization of his greatest individual capacity."

"This publication, the Educational Advisory Committee, the various editions of the Torrance Schools, face-to-face communications with parents at reporting time, and the local newspapers all help develop understanding of the schools. We believe that when understanding has existed long enough to produce faith in the leadership of the schools,

Law Fattens School Purse

As a result of an amendment to Public Law 874 the Torrance Unified School District has become eligible for an estimated \$50,000 in additional funds for the coming school year, it was revealed at the Board of Education meeting Tuesday.

The amendment, passed by the current Congress for one year, eliminates a three per cent absorption factor, which will benefit all school districts being aided under Public Law 874.

Plans for Torrance Beach Pier Studied

A committee to study the possibility of constructing a pier at Torrance beach has been appointed by the Hollywood Riviera Sportsmen's Club, with A. J. Patronsky, of 740 Calle de Arboles, as chairman.

Following a discussion last Thursday night, the group appointed the committee to see whether such a move would be feasible, and whether local residents would support such a plan.

SERVING:

Lomita - Harbor City
Walleria - Hollywood Riviera
Seaside - El Nido - North
Torrance - Pacific Hills
Keystone - Avalon Village

10¢ per copy

30¢ per month by Carrier

Council Adopts 3-Step Pay Plan

City and school district employees were granted wage hikes, totaling nearly \$180,000 this week as the City Council and Board of Education adopted salary plans for the coming year.

The city's pay hike, retroactive to July 1, 1954, will cost about \$100,000 in additional wages, it was reported. The raises were arrived at through a survey conducted by a private firm which reported other cities comparable to Torrance were using a five-step pay plan.

Instead of changing to the prevailing five-step plan, the Torrance City Council lopped off the bottom two steps and kept the city on a three-step pay plan by using the top three steps of comparable city wage plans.

At the same time, several new classifications were added to the city's position classification plan, among them a Superintendent of Building, Director of Playgrounds and Recreation and PBX Operator.

Torrance teachers will receive a two-and-a-half per cent salary boost as a result of an increase over expected income that will give Torrance about \$80,000 more than predicted in the school publication budget.

The increase is based on a higher assessed valuation than figured on, a larger amount of aid from the Federal Government, and an increase based on tax collections beyond the normal percentage.

In the past, flat raises—an equal amount to all teachers—have been given. This was changed to a percentage raise this year to reward employees who have been with the School District a longer time, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

The average raise per teacher hits about \$100 per year, Hull said. Teachers can estimate how much more money they will receive by taking 2.5 per cent of their present salary and adding, he said.

Craft Classes Start Sept. 20

A Handicraft Class for Recreational Leaders will be offered by the Adult Education Department of Torrance Evening High School, on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in Room 124, Torrance High School. The first meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 20.

The class is planned especially for adults who are working with children in the Cub Scout, Girl Scout, Brownie, playground, summer and day camp programs.

Some of the crafts to be covered are braiding with plexon into belts, whistles, cords, key rings and bracelets; potato printing, plaster of Paris molding and painting, leather work, puppet making, paper bag masks and mounting, aluminum tooling and carving, paper crafts, soap carving and articles to be made from natural camp materials.

The only cost will be for materials used and the class will be limited to 30 adults.

Mrs. Vernon Bailiff of San Pedro will be the class instructor. She is well known in the Harbor and Torrance area for her work in Scouting, YMCA and the schools.

Further information can be obtained from the Torrance School of Adult Education, FA 8-2272.

Jobless Show Slight Drop

The number of unemployed persons in Torrance on Sept. 1 was 1044, a decline from the previous month according to figures released by the local office of the California Department of Employment.

This reflects a gradual lessening of the number of persons seeking jobs in the area, since highs last spring. Of the unemployed, 599 are men and 445 are women. Thirty-nine per cent of the men are veterans.

The largest number of unemployed are laborers, followed closely by semi-skilled and skilled workers. These account for about three-quarters of the total.

Day Care Center To Be Continued

The Extended Day Care Center will be continued in a city-owned building at Torrance Park as a result of joint action by the City Council and Board of Education Tuesday.

The Council approved the use of the building by the Care Center but specified that it should cost the city no money, nor incur any liability.

The Board agreed to maintain and supervise the Care Center in the new building, provided that the children carry their lunches and remain on the school grounds during the noon hour and that the Care Center employees assume the responsibility of escorting the children to and from school.

State Says OK
A communication from the State informed the Board that it is feasible and legal to supervise a child care center on an off-campus basis.

The move into the park building will probably be made next week, with no suspension of the child care in the interim. The

Redondo Asked To Add School To Annexation

The strange case of an area in El Nido which is in Redondo City but in the Torrance School District came to a head this week when Torrance School officials offered to let Redondo take the area into its school district, too. The land is bounded by the railroad tracks on the east, 190th St. on the south and the Torrance school boundary on the north and west. It was annexed recently by the City of Redondo but nobody much cared. Nobody lives there.

But there's a 300-home subdivision slated to be built in the area, and Redondo apparently wanted it. So the Beach City got the land but it's still in the Torrance School District. A letter to the County Superintendent of Schools, requesting that the boundaries be changed to include the area in Redondo's School District, was dispatched this week by Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. H. Hull.

If a similar letter is sent from Redondo School leaders, the ball will begin rolling. If not . . .

Court Finds Man Guilty Of Battery

Louis John Costello, 49, of 20602 Normandie Ave., has applied for probation after being found guilty of battery against a 15-year-old boy last Aug. 17.

South Bay Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett will pass sentence on Sept. 23. Costello was charged with hitting Ray Chavez, of 1553 W. 209th St., after hearing him make remarks he thought were directed toward his daughter. The boy was riding his bicycle by the Costello home, and claimed he was shouting at a dog which was following him.

Whitney to Study Jet Air Traffic Control

D. R. Whitney, 509 Calle de Arboles, is one of 40 Civil Aeronautics personnel who will take an Air Force jet indoctrination course at Moody Air Force Base at Valdosta, Ga., starting Oct. 31.

Handling jet aircraft in air traffic control is studied at first-hand by persons taking the course, which includes five hours in a jet simulator and 10 hours of actual jet flying, mostly "under the hood."

WEATHER

Low early morning patches of fog and low clouds are forecast for this morning by the U. S. Weather Bureau, but sunny weather should lighten the skies this afternoon and bring slightly warmer temperatures than yesterday's 84-degree high.

Your Herald Carrier Boy Is Now Collecting for August

All Herald Carrier Boys are now engaged in their monthly collection drive. Papers left during August are now payable and when your Herald Carrier Boy calls, kindly ask for his identification card signed by Circulation Manager. Request receipt for your payment.

If you desire further information, please phone Circulation Dept., The Herald, FA 8-4004